

**Michigan Water Resources Conservation Advisory Council
September 11, 2009, Meeting Summary**

The Friday September 11, 2009, WRCAC Meeting was held in the 1921 Conference Room on the 7th floor of the Mason Building at 530 West Allegan in Lansing Michigan from 10:15 to 2:12.

Council members in attendance were Sumedh Bahl, Dr. Bryan Burroughs, Jon Coleman, Michael Gregg, Mark Lemons, Scott Piggott, Frank Ruswick, Dr. Paul Seelbach, Dr. Pat Soranno, Bob Walther, and Paul Zugger.

Absent members were Jon Allan, James Clift, Frank Ettawageshik, Craig Hoffman, Dr. Jo Latimore, Peter Manning, Timothy Neumann, Michael Newman, Richard Slevatz, and Samuel Wendling

Guests present were Jim Cleland, Gary Dawson, Emily Finnell, Pat Fouchey, Dave Hamilton, Bill Horn, Jim Nicholas, and Polly Synk.

Welcome – Housekeeping items – Review agenda and goals for the day

At 10:15 Dr. Paul Seelbach welcomed everyone to the Mason Building. The meeting started late to allow Pat Fouchey to accept last minute lunch orders.

Dr. Paul Seelbach said the focus of today's meeting is the report that is due to the legislator. Completed drafts need to come back by September 18 to Scott Piggott.

Those present introduced themselves.

Approval of the Draft Summary of August 14 WRCAC Meeting.doc was accepted as written to be placed on the www.michigan.gov/wrcac webpage.

Subcommittee Reports - Reports of Subcommittee for Final Report

Dr. Paul Seelbach said we want to talk about content; don't want to wordsmith.

Impacts on Lakes + +

Dr. Pat Soranno distributed a 6 page document titled: Michigan Water Resources Conservation Advisory Council Subcommittee to Evaluate Impacts on Inland Lakes and Wetlands DRAFT- September 10, 2009. Dr. Pat Soranno said the first page of this document is similar to what was said in the Council's April Report. Today would like to look at the recommendations. A review of the document and discussion was held from 10:25 till 11:12.

Dr. Pat Soranno said this document has a series of 4 questions to address the issue of whether the current tool protects lakes and wetlands. Dr. Pat Soranno highlighted the report's content.

Jim Nicholas asked if the subcommittee members feel it is likely that the metric data will ever be available. Dr. Pat Soranno said for wetlands pretty well developed relationships (metrics). Yes. For lakes still unknown if metric. Paul Zugger said might not be able to have a universal metric.

Tool Recommendations

Dr. Paul Seelbach said in the WRCAC Report, August 2009 Evaluation Subcommittee Section distributed via E-mail by Dave Hamilton the only changes from last month's are: improved table and added some more material about the database.

Dr. Paul Seelbach said he made a presentation of this process to the Natural Resources Commission.

Preventative Measures 11:25 – 11:55

Dr. Bryan Burroughs

Dr. Bryan Burroughs stated he needed to leave by noon so between 11:25 and 11:55 he discussed the Preventative Measures Report. Copies of Outline – Preventative Measures Subcommittee Report September 11, 2009 were distributed to all.

The question was raised what is the difference between plan and application. The plan is very general. The application is specific on what is going to be done. The application has everything and more than plan. Will include that the preventative measure(s) will be part of a permit process. Subcommittee came up with many other questions. They are listed in draft and will placed in the report. This is a basic framework. As measures become routine can maybe streamline process.

Tim Newman asked why \$1,000 cost upfront. The reply was to weed out those that are not going to do anything. Frank Ruswick thought maybe \$200 to hold with intent to submit a plan. Then the \$800 when plan submitted. Agreed.

Paul Seelbach doesn't see in report what happens if preventative measures doesn't work, does the water withdrawal stop. Reply: It is build in that monitoring is done. The concept is the preventative measure is done first then withdrawal started. If the preventative measure doesn't work, applicant will not be allowed to withdrawal.

Jim Cleland asked when is return flow used. Reply: Return flow is considered in the site specific review.

Law Conflict

Copies of *Law Subcommittee Report DRAFT* had been delivered to the conference room at 9:50 and distributed. Paul Seelbach said the Law Subcommittee consisted of Peter Manning and James Clift. Neither are here. Please send comments to Peter Manning. Remember he needs to have report to Scott Piggott by next Friday, September 18, 2009.

Conservation

Jim Cleland said from comments made at the last meeting regarding the WRCAC Sub-Committee Report on Michigan/Compact Conservation & Efficiency Programs Water Resources Conservation Advisory Council August 14, 2009 Scott Piggott made minor changes to the document.

12:10 – 12:45 Lunch

Educational Materials

Copies of Education Materials Committee Draft Report September 11, 2009 were distributed. Jon Coleman said their charge was a very board charge. Tried to zero in on the creation of water user groups and water resource assessment and education committees. Jon Coleman said the subcommittee spent quite a bit of time on locating what materials are out there. Most are available on line. The subcommittee thought that the listing of materials is pretty complete. The report also gives organizations that could help if user / committees can't find information wanted. One item the subcommittee felt was missing was a timeline / guide book on how to form a user group to address an ARI.

Dave Hamilton said this report will be important as a free standing document for use.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative 1:15 – 2:05

Emily Finnell

Emily Finnell of DEQ – Office of the Great Lakes distributed a FAQ put together by the Great Lakes Commission. Background information is available at <http://epa.gov/greatlakes/glri/index.html> and <http://www.michigan.gov/deqgreatlakes> . She then presented a PowerPoint titled GLRI powerpoint.ppt

2:05 -2:07 New Business and Public Comment

Jim Nicholas said there was a meeting and it seemed as if the Water Withdrawal Screening Tool was being used as a planning tool. There are better ways to do that. Bob Walther said he heard the tool is being used for land values. Dave Hamilton said this is an important issue. The Agricultural field came to DEQ saying the Water Withdrawal Screening Tool is not accurate. Their initial grievance was clarified. Tool is not made for planning. Need to use a better hydrologic model for planning.

2:07 – 2:12 Next Meeting

October 9, 2009, from 10:00 – 3:00 - MUCC at 2101 Wood Street in Lansing Michigan

MUCC Phone: 517-371-1041 – Lunch will be from Amy's Catering at \$8 per person

2:12 Adjourn